

California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

Friday, April 7, 2006

Fresno Convention Center

New Exhibit Hall

848 M Street

Fresno, CA 93721

Board Meeting” 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Fresno County Public Forum: 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Summary of the Public Forum Proceedings

As Chair of the Partnership, Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak welcomed attendees to the Fresno public forum held by the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley and gave a brief overview of the formation of the Partnership and its activities to date.

Secretary McPeak then began the testimony portion of the public hearing by referring to five questions taken directly from the Governor’s Executive Order establishing the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. The questions were provided to those invited to give testimony and available to members of the public upon arrival. The five questions to be discussed are as follows:

- What is your assessment of the adopted Scopes of Work for the Work Groups and to what extent do they reflect the appropriate priorities for action?
- What projects and programs will best utilize public dollars and most quickly improve the economic vitality of the San Joaquin Valley, especially those that leverage federal, state, local and private-sector resources to address critical needs?
- What statutory or regulatory changes would improve the economic well-being of the San Joaquin Valley and improve the quality of life for its residents?
- What are the top 3 priorities for action that will improve the future economic prosperity and quality of life for the San Joaquin Valley?
- How can cooperation and collaboration among San Joaquin Valley public officials and civic leaders best be continued in the future and what would be the most appropriate organizational structure to ensure implementation of the Strategic Action Proposal required by the Governor’s Executive Order?

Three panels of local leaders were invited to provide testimony based on the five questions at the forum.

Partnership Board Member Larry Fortune introduced the Government Panel. Panel members are as follows:

Trinidad Rodriguez, Council of Fresno County Governments
Dr. Carole Goldsmith, West Hills Community College District
Dr. Pete Mehas, Fresno County Office of Education
Blake Konczal, Fresno County Workforce Investment Board
Kathy Millison, City of Clovis

The panel stressed that personal economic success depends on the availability of education and the need for additional opportunities for technical and vocational education at both the local school level and through the community colleges. Panelists expressed a particular need for more Valley residents to be trained locally as nurses and other health professionals so that the needs of Valley health care providers could be met by locally trained personnel. Panelists also gave high importance to air and water quality, and added that economic development in the area would benefit from additional funding for infrastructure for transportation including public transportation and the need for wise land use decisions.

Partnership Board Member Lorraine Salazar introduced the business panel. Panel Members are as follows:

Al Smith, Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce
Doug Jensen, Economic Development Corporation Serving Fresno County
Paul Betancourt, Fresno County Farm Bureau and VF Farms
Tom Vidmar, Anlin Industries
Ken Newby, Fresno Business Council and Deloitte and Touche
Mike Prandini, Fresno Building Industry Association

The panel provided an overview of what the business community in the area is thinking. In a recent survey of businesses the four most critical issues were workers compensation, frivolous lawsuits, excessive taxes and labor regulations. Business owners feel these issues have the greatest negative impact on economic development. The business panel also echoed the sentiments of the previous panel, noting that vocational and technical education is the key for both local youth as job seekers and for businesses who need workers. Capital investment is needed and funding for infrastructure, in terms of transportation, water—both quality and quantity in terms of additional storage and clean and abundant energy—perhaps using solar as a source, and additional resources to help clean the air in the Valley, can help attract capital. Because of its concern for continuing the momentum of the Partnership into the future, the panel stressed the importance of finding a way to continue the work of the Partnership either as an entity itself or through a successor organization.

Partnership liaison Pete Weber introduced the community panel. Panelists included the following:

Keith Berghold, Fresno Housing Alliance and Relational Culture Institute
Keith Kelly, Fresno West Coalition for Economic Development
Suzanne Bertz-Rosa, Creative Economic Council
Lue Yang, Fresno Center for New Americans
Kurt Madden, One by One Leadership

Panelists commented on the growing gap between our families' incomes and the rising cost of housing in the Valley, with parts of the Valley now considered some of the least affordable in terms of housing in the United States. The panel urged that creative options for making housing more affordable be adopted. The creative community, in terms of arts, culture and other amenities, can be an important boost to economic development. The community panel echoed the comments of the previous panels regarding the need for job preparation and vocational training and increased sources of clean energy, and the need to continue the work of the partnership as a means of collaboration and a source of leadership within the Valley.

Nine flip charts, each representing and labeled for one of the nine Work Groups, were stationed throughout the room. Attendees were invited to write any additional comments on the flip charts for inclusion in the testimony.

Secretary McPeak thanked the City of Fresno and the Fresno Convention Center for hosting this forum and all of those people who provided testimony and public input at this public forum. The next forums will be held in Merced on May 18 and Madera on May 19.

California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley
April 7, 2006
Fresno California

Board Meeting and Public Forum Attendees

Board Members Present

Local Elected Officials

Mayor Alan Autry, City of Fresno
Councilman Paul Boyer, City of Farmersville
Councilwoman Marcelyn Buford, City of Hanford
Supervisor Gary Gilbert, Madera County
Supervisor Jeff Grover, Stanislaus County

Civic Leaders

Sheila Carroll, Ross F. Carroll, Inc., Modesto
Larry Fortune, Fortune Associates
Coke Hallowell, San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust
Jose Rivera, Kaiser Permanente
Fred Ruiz, Ruiz Foods
Lorraine Salazar, Sal's Mexican Restaurants
Sharron Thornton, the Grass is Greener Landscape Management, Merced

Cabinet Secretaries

Secretary Mike Chrisman, Resources Agency
Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

Cabinet Designees

Jamie Fall for Secretary Victoria Bradshaw, CA Labor and Workforce Development Agency
Jonnalee Henderson representing Secretary A. G. Kawamura
Ricardo Soto representing Secretary Alan Bersin
Cindy Tuck representing the California Environmental Protection Agency

Board Members Not Present

Mayor Michael Amabile, Los Banos
Council Member Susan Benham, Bakersfield
Supervisor Connie Conway, Tulare County
Fritz Grupe, The Grupe Company, Stockton
Supervisor Victor Mow, San Joaquin County

Appointed Liaisons

Pete Weber, ANRON International, Fresno, Liaison to the Federal Interagency Task Force
Supervisor Barbara Patrick, Liaison to the California Air Resources Board

Other Key Partners

Supporting Agencies

Heidi Arno, Great Valley Center
Debra Bolen, The Maddy Institute
Ellen Herod, Great Valley Center
Mark Keppler, The Maddy Institute, CSU Fresno
Mike Lynch, Great Valley Center
Ashley Swearengin, CSU Fresno
Carol Whiteside, Great Valley Center

Other Guests

Elected Officials

Councilman Brian Calhoun, Fresno
Mayor Pro Tem Donald Ikemiya, Reedley
Supervisor Phil Larson, County of Fresno
Mayor Victor Lopez, Orange Cove
Mayor Nathan Magsig, City of Clovis
Councilman Roy Rodriguez, Orange Cove
Mayor Don Tow, City of Selma
Councilman Larry Westerlund, Fresno

Community Leaders

Tom Abshire, Service Employees International Union Local 535
Joel Aranaz, City of Fresno
Miguel Arias, Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission
Becky Barabe, National Resource Network
Cathy Barabe, West Hills Community College District
Julie Benevedes-Menzes, Director, Central Valley Office, CA Governor's Office
Alan Bengyel, Interim City Manager, City of Huron
Keith Berghold, Relational Culture Institute
Suzanne Bertz-Rosa, Bertz-Rosa Design
Paul Betancourt, CA Regional Water Quality Control Board
Ken Blackwood, San Joaquin Valley Black Chamber of Commerce
Terry Bond, Personnel Services Director, City of Fresno
Lee Brand, Westco Equities Inc.
Andrea Bressel, KVPT Public Television
Allen Carden, CA State University Fresno
Amy Chubb, CA State University Fresno
Les Clark, Independent Oil Producers Agency
Ben Cuellar, CA State University Fresno
Tim Curley, Hospital Council of Northern & Central California
Dr. Kathleen Curtis, CA State University Fresno
John Delmatier, Proteus, Inc.

Laura Dennison, Project Clean Air
Renee DeVere, Fresno Council of Governments
Mike Dozier, City of Clovis
Pete Estrada, Specialized Printing & Promotions
Kelli Furtado, Central Valley Business Incubator
Scott Galbraith, Merced County Economic Development Corporation
John Garamendi, University of California Merced
Carole Goldsmith, West Hills Community College District
Barbara Goodwin, Fresno Council of Governments
Lynn Gorman, County of Fresno
Javier Guzman, Proteus, Inc.
Tracewell Hanrahan, Pacific Community Ventures
Gary Hanson, Pacific Gas & Electric Company
Michael Hanson, Fresno Unified School District
Sara Hedgreth-Harris, Fresno League of Women Voters
Rick Jeffery, WebStarr.net
Matthew Jendian, CA State University Fresno
Doug Jensen, Fresno Economic Development Corporation
Chris Johnson, Johnson Architecture
Eric Johnson, AT&T
Michele Jory, Fresno Adult School
Bernice Kao, Fresno County Public Library
Keith Kelly, Fresno West Coalition for Economic Development
Billie Kerstetter, Fresno Convention & Visitors Bureau
Blake Konczal, Fresno County Workforce Investment Board
Paula Landis, CA Department of Water Resources
Brenda Lauchner, Fresno Council of Governments
Homer Leija, City of Fresno
Jose Leon-Barroza, County of Fresno
Karl Longley, CA Regional Water Quality Control Board
Bill Loudermilk, CA Department of Fish & Game
Mike Lukens, US Office of Congressman Radanovich
Kurt Madden, One by One Leadership
Katherine Maguire, Tim Huff, AIA
Shannon Major, Office of Senator Poochigian
Ron Manfredi, City Manager, City of Kerman
Dennis Manning, Fresno Area Residents for Rail Consolidation
Becky Matli, Fresno County Public Library
Peter Mehas, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools
Kathy Millison, City Manager, City of Clovis
Ed Moreno, Fresno County Department of Community Health
Colby Morrow, Southern California Gas Company
Jon Morse, Sr., Success Strategies Unlimited
Brandi Nakaido, University of California Merced
Sanford Nax, Fresno Bee
Ken Newby, Deloitte & Touche

Sam Norman, The Rios Company
Joseph Oldham, City of Fresno
Katie Otto, Fresno County Workforce Investment Board
Roger Palomino, Enterprise Plus Economic Development Center
Maria Pallavicini, University of California Merced
Teresa Patterson, State Center Community College District
Don Pauley, City Manager, City of Kingsburg
Mike Prandini, Building Industry Association of San Joaquin Valley
Joel Rabin, Fresno Unified School District
Ravi Ramalingam, CA Air Resources Board
Louise Richardson, Fresno Public Library
Jeff Roberts, Granville Homes
John Robertson, Quad Knopf Inc.
Michael Rood, Granite Construction Company
Darren Rose, US Office of Congressman Radanovich
Debra Rose, CA Department of Rehabilitation
Jon Ruiz, City of Fresno
Mike Russler, Governor's Nursing Workforce Initiative
Nate Rutterbush, Granite Construction
Jackie Ryle, Empowerment Strategies
Larry Salinas, University of California Merced
Jesus Sanchez, Blue Cross of California
Alice Saviez, Fresno County Workforce Investment Board
Laurie Seaborn, Summit Software
Sarah Sharpe, Coalition for Clean Air
Ron Silva, Western Transport
Al Smith, Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce
Claudia Soria-Delgado, Central San Joaquin Valley Director
Dave Spaur, Economic Development Corporation Fresno County
Tim Stearns, CA State University Fresno
Barbara Steck, Fresno Council of Governments
J. Patrick Sweeney, Central Transit & Development Corporation
Chloe Tatro, Fresno County Workforce Investment Board
Larry Taylor, TAICO
Stanley Tom, Valley Small Business Development Corporation
Cristel Tufenkjian, Kings River Conservation District
Rojelio Vasquez, Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Tom Vidmar, Anlin Industries
Eric VonBerg, URS Corporation
Lois Watson, Audubon Society of Kern County
Dr. John Welty, CA State University Fresno
Lloyd Williams, Fresno West Coalition for Economic Development
Levi Winebrenner, City of Fresno
John Wright, City of Clovis
Blong Xiong, Fresno Center for New Americans
Lue Yang, Fresno Center for New Americans

Lydia Zabrycki, Quad Knopf Inc.
Ralph Zackheim, US Dept. of Labor

Public

John Bailey, Fresno
Vernice Brown, Fresno
Rick DeFehr, Fresno
Keiko Golden, Fresno
Tate Hill, Fresno
Devon Jones, Fresno
Rhonda Jorn, Fresno
Mary Lopez, Clovis
Mary Matsushita, Fresno
Robert Merrill, Fresno
Jim Patterson, Fresno
Cedric Reese, Fresno
Steve Sameslian, Fresno
Veronica Valenzuela, Fresno
Vhith White, Fresno